



17 January 2014

The Honorable Bernie Sanders (VT)  
Chairman, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee  
412 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr (NC)  
Ranking Member, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee  
412 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

CC: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY)

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Burr,

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), we would like to request immediate Senate floor consideration of S. 1950, as amended, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014. AUSN has been tracking and supporting many provisions of this omnibus Veterans bill, which are vital to our nation's Veterans.

S. 1950 contains provisions of the previous Veterans omnibus bill S. 944, originally the Veterans Educational Transition Assistance Act, would, amongst other things, amend Title 38, United States Code, to require courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education that are approved for purposes of the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to charge veterans tuition and fees at the in-State tuition rate. Furthermore, the bill contains provisions of S. 495, the Careers for Veterans Act, which would require Federal agencies to hire Veterans and States to recognize the military experience of Veterans when issuing licenses and credentials. Another important provision, is derived from S. 629, the Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act, which would amend United States Code to recognize service in the reserve components of the armed forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as Veterans under law. This is a very important issue to members of AUSN's Reserve Component, and we hope that this provision will be considered soon so that men and women who have served a twenty plus year career in our Reserves may be recognized as Veterans under law.

Finally, AUSN supports a number of additional provisions to S. 1950, addressing a wide range of Veterans issues. For instance, the bill contains provisions of S. 6, the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act of 2013, which reauthorizes the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 by providing assistance to small business owned by Veterans and improving the enforcement of employment and reemployment rights for members of the uniformed services. We also praise the inclusion of provisions from S. 1216, the Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013, which would approve and increase the availability of on the job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as well as provisions from S. 1580, the Ensuring Safe Shelter for Homeless Veterans Act of 2013, which would ensure that shelters that receive per diem funding are operating within existing safety codes and regulations, as well as at an appropriate level of care.

Thank you for your consideration. AUSN hopes for swift passage by the Senate of this important omnibus bill to send to the House. With little Veterans legislation passed into law during the 1st Session of the 113th Congress, passage of this bill would be an important way to start the 2nd Session. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our Legislative Director, Mr. Anthony A. Wallis, at [anthony.wallis@ausn.org](mailto:anthony.wallis@ausn.org) or at 703-548-5800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Totushek", written in a cursive style.

VADM John B. Totushek, U.S. Navy (Ret.)  
Executive Director, AUSN